

IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims, including amended claims, are as follows:

1. (Original) A method for thermally degassing a working fluid of a two-phase working cycle, the method comprising:

preheating a condensate mass flow;

feeding preheated condensate into feedwater tank/degaser means, extracting a feedwater mass flow from the feedwater tank/degaser means and feeding said feedwater mass flow to heating surfaces located in a heat recovery steam generator;

preheating the condensate mass flow in a first condensate preheater;

further preheating a condensate flow fraction of the preheated condensate mass flow in a second condensate preheater;

feeding residual condensate mass flow into the feedwater tank/degaser means;

and

introducing the condensate flow fraction into the feedwater tank/degaser means, thus heating the working fluid in the feedwater tank/degaser means with said condensate flow fraction.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second condensate preheater is arranged in the heat recovery steam generator upstream of the first condensate preheater in the flow direction of exhaust gases flowing through the heat recovery steam generator.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
expanding the residual condensate mass flow prior to the feeding into the feedwater tank/degaser means, thus maintaining condensate thereof below boiling point.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
maintaining the condensate entering the feedwater tank/degaser means at 5 K through 20 K below the boiling point.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
expanding the condensate while flowing through a first control element.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
expanding the condensate flow fraction after preheating in the second condensate preheater before feeding the condensate flow fraction into the feedwater tank/degasser means.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
expanding the condensate flow fraction into a wet steam state.
8. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
expanding the condensate flow fraction while flowing through a second control element.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
introducing the condensate flow fraction into the feedwater tank/degasser means through a nozzle tube arranged below a liquid fluid surface in the feedwater tank/degasser means.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
alternately opening and closing a first control element to temporarily block residual condensate mass flow.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the working cycle is used in a water-steam-cycle of a combined cycle power plant, said power plant comprising at least one gas turbo group and a least one steam turbine plant.
12. (Currently amended) A degassing device comprising a first condensate preheater, a second condensate preheater, and a connection line leading from the first condensate preheater ~~and~~ to the second condensate preheater, and a feedwater tank/degasser means having a first fluid inlet and a heating fluid inlet, a first line branching off between the first condensate preheater and the second condensate preheater and leading to the first fluid inlet, and a second line leading from the second condensate preheater to the heating fluid inlet.

13. (Currently amended) The device of claim 12, wherein the ~~degasser~~
degasser means is arranged on top of the feedwater tank and is configured as a trickling
degasser means.

14. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein the first condensate
preheater and the second condensate preheater are arranged in a heat recovery steam
generator, and the first condensate preheater is arranged downstream of the second
condensate preheater in the direction of flue gases flowing through the heat recovery steam
generator.

15. (Original) The device of claim 12, further comprising a control means
arranged in the first line.